as they preponderated in the Assembly. The exclusion of Christians was a matter of grievance to them and that grievance had to be redressed.

The Member therefore requested that separate electorates might be created for Christians for the purpose of securing adequate representation in the Legislative Council and in the Popular Assembly. He was aware of the evils incidental to special electorates for particular communities but, in the present conditions, he believed that no other course was feasible. If, however, separate electorates be deemed inexpedient, the community would be satisfied if the Government devised any other method which would tend to remove the inadequacy in the representation of the Christians in the two institutions.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

22. The need for appointing a Mahomedan Judge in the High Court.

Mr. Ibrahim Pillai Sayyid Mahomed (Member, Nominated) said that, in the High Courts in British India, there was always a Mahomedan Judge. The Mahomedans numbered over two lakhs in the State and the Member requested that one from the community might be appointed as a Judge in the High Court.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

23. The necessity for amending the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation.

Mr. Thrivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) conveyed the thanks of the jenmies to the Government for sanctioning, in G. O. No. J. 227, dated the 5th January 1915, the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the working of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation. He said that it was far from the intention of the Jenmi Sabha that all rights should be secured to the jenmies to the prejudice of the kudiyans. The jenmies only wished that the working of the Regulation should be improved. In regard to the constitution of the proposed Committee, he said that, unless the greatest care was taken in selecting impartial men to serve on the Committee, the condition of the jenmies might become even more disastrous than under the existing Regulation. In regard to the declaration of the Government's policy contained in para 2 of the G. O., he said that the jenmies were satisfied with it in the same way as the kudiyans.

Messrs. Iravithayar Pandarathil (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) *Narayanar Janardanar* (Member, Jenmi, Trivandrum Division) and *Narayanar Thuppan Numboori* (Member, Jenmi, Kottayam Division) also thanked the Government for appointing a Committee to examine the defects in the existing Regulation and said that, in view of the Government resolution, they would defer their remarks on the question.

Messrs. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) and *Kora Mathan Malpan* (Member, Muvattupuzha taluk) then expressed, on behalf of the kudiyans, their feelings of gratitude for the decision of the Government to appoint a Committee for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting on the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation and they said that, instead of taking up the time of the Assembly, they would place their observations and suggestions before the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—It gives me great pleasure to know that the resolution of the Government to appoint a Committee is appreciated both by the jenmies and the tenants. I assure you that the constitution of the Committee will receive the careful consideration of the Government and I trust that, when it is formed, the Committee will give satisfaction both to the jenmies and the tenants. I would also add that, when the recommendations of the Committee come before the Government, they will be most carefully considered and every endeavour made to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

24. The necessity for a legislative enactment to regulate the right of inheritance among the Ezhavas.

Mr. C. Krishnan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) stated that he had made a representation on the subject at the tenth session of the Assembly but that no

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action had yet been taken by the Government in the matter. He pointed out that the absence of a uniform system of marriage and inheritance among the Ezhavas of the State had very deleterious effects on the peaceful progress of the community as a whole. Three systems of inheritance obtained in the community at present. A few who formed the minority followed the *Makkathayam* system of inheritance; others followed the *Marumakkathayam* system and a third set followed a system of inheritance which partook of the nature of both *Makkathayam* and *Marumakkathayam*. The Member's representations related to the *Marumakkathayees* alone. Amongst them, the marriage tie was considered sufficiently sacred and strong; but the condition of absolute 'rightlessness' of an Ezhava wife in regard to the self-acquisition of an Ezhava husband was deplorable. The Member said that the community felt the injustice and iniquity of the system and referred to the wholesome effect of the Nair Regulation on the Nair community. He therefore requested that, so far as the *Marumakkathayees* were concerned, a system of inheritance similar to that already followed by a section of the Ezhavas, *viz.*, the combination of both the *Marumakkathayam* and *Makkathayam* systems, might be introduced by a legislative enactment, or that a competent Committee be appointed to enquire into the matter with a view to the introduction of the above enactment, or that the Nair Regulation itself might be made applicable to the *Marumakkathayee* Ezhavas with such modifications as the needs and conditions of that community might require.

Dewan.—Will the community be satisfied with a law on the lines of the Nair Regulation?

Member.—It will, I think, satisfy the majority, though there may be some differences of opinion on the part of a small minority.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

25. Tea thefts.

Mr. Mackenzie (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that the theft of tea from the Peermade District had assumed most serious proportions during the past four years and that the planters felt bound to ask Government for help and the better protection of that produce. Tea was at first stolen from chests at the Kottayam landing and from carts in transit; but latterly factories had been broken into and either loose tea or packed cases were removed. The latest trouble was that cartmen accepted delivery of tea chests under an assumed name and never delivered them to the proper agents at Kottayam. He complained that the local police took little or no interest in the cases reported to them and that, out of the many cases reported, only three or four had ended in conviction. He pointed out that tea was not sold locally at all from the estates and that, therefore, the contention of the police that the tea often sold in the local markets was the tea sold to the local merchants by the planters was absolutely untenable. He believed that the police could do much more than they did to stop the thefts by keeping a stricter watch on the local trade in tea. During the past four years, the planters had lost about 1,00,000 lbs. of tea valued at about Rs. 50,000. He suggested that the Government should pass some Regulation, such as the one which referred to the illicit sale of arrack, whereby the burden of proof should rest with the retail merchants of tea and that a smart Commissioner be deputed to enquire into and report on the theft and reselling of tea in Peermade.

Dewan's reply.—If the figures given by you are correct, you have a legitimate grievance. But there appears to be no law either in British India or Ceylon dealing specially with tea thefts, in the same way as coffee thefts or rubber thefts, to serve as a model or basis. The matter will, however, be enquired into. A report will also be called for from the Commissioner of Police about the apathy of the police complained of.

26. Agricultural Loans Regulation—the defects in its workability and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Shencotta) said that, as he understood that the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil was soon to take up the question of the amendments required in the Agricultural Loans Regulation

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